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A Topliff Family

1580-1980

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A TOPLIFF FAMILY
1580-1980

This brief history of a
thoroughly American family
was put in this form by
Peter G. D. Kershaw

To
The worthy descendants
of a good people

Port Charlotte
Florida

June 1978

" ' THIS NOT TO RAISE TO NOTICE

A GREAT NAME

NOR YET TO EXALT

HEREDITARY PRIDE

... NOR WITH ENDEAVORS TO OBTAIN

THE PALM

OF POET, SKILLED IN LOFTY STRAINS

TO CHARM.

UNKNOWN TO ALL THE LEARNED WORLD,

I COME."

(From the "Poems of Nathaniel Topliff" 1757-1819)

CS71
.N72K47
1978

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TOPLIFF?

Yes. The name means inn keeper, and has many spellings in England and the United States. Some of these are Topcliff, Toplief, Topliefe, Toplif, Toplife, Topliffe, Toplift, Toplidge, Topley, and Toplis. One source states that the name is of Germanic origin.

Surnames did not become hereditary in England until late in the 11th century and were not common until about 1160, roughly one hundred years after the Norman conquest.

The written language of the church and state then was Latin. The nobles mostly spoke French. The ordinary people spoke in their various dialects based on Saxon, Danish, Viking, Irish, Welch, Scot and the slowly emerging "English" words.

Parish registers bearing entries, usually in Latin, as early as the middle 1500's of "Topliffs" are to be found in Canterbury, London, Lincoln, Ipswich, Yorkshire, and Dublin (in Ireland).

The most famous, or rather infamous, Topcliffe was Richard (1532 - 1604). Highly educated and of gentry rank, he was a servant of Queen Elizabeth. His job was to hunt down Roman Catholics, especially Jesuit priests, and to bring them, often by severe torture, to confession of anti-state activities.

To somewhat balance this, it should be pointed out that the See of Winchester, capital of ancient England, had as bishop shortly before 1189, a Topcliffe. Winchester, the largest cathedral in England and the longest Gothic church in Europe, was begun during the reign of William the Conqueror.

The name of the father of Clement Topliff, the "immigrant," is not

known. However, since Clement was born in 1605, it may be assumed that his father was born about 1580, during Elizabeth's reign and before the Spanish Armada.

The town in England in which Clement was born is not known. But there is evidence that he and his wife came from either Ipswich in Suffork, Widford in Essex, or Nazeing in Hertford. These are adjacent counties in south-east England.

There is still a parish of Morley and Topliff near Leeds in the West Riding (third) of Yorkshire. And there is also the place name of Topliff in Norfork County.

So far, apparently, no one has successfully traced Clement's family further back in time through English parish and county records.

What is generally agreed to by those who have traced the Topliff name is that all Topliffs now in the United States descent from Clement.

The reader of this book should keep in mind that given designations such as Samuel III or Deacon refer only to the one line being traced.Actually, there were many Samuels, Deacons, Davids, etc. Searchers of other Topliff genealogies will find little help in this quite arbitrary usage. However, it is hoped that this method leads to a coherent and easily understood genealogy.

It is hoped that owners of this book will employ the blank pages to record, in detail, their family lines for the benefit of their own descendants.

The father of the 1st Topliff to come to America

Probably born about 1580. Death date not known.

Clement Topliff, the "immigrant," to America about 1636

Born in England, 1603; died Dorchester, Mass. 1672

Samuel I	1646-1722
Samuel II	1695-1754
Calvin	1729-1809
Samuel III	1770-1839
Charles	1796-1845
Charles Casper	1829-1889

(1) Charles Hartwell (1855-1946) (2) Mary Alice (~~1860-1932?~~ 1859-1935)

(1) Charles Hartwell's sons, Hartwell (1885-1947) and Casper (1889-1971) never married. His daughter Mrs. Linetta Glenn (1882-1945) had no children. His daughter Mrs. Nina Dean (1879-1968) had three daughters, and his daughter Mrs. Frances Fiezel (1891-) had seven children.

(2) Mary Alice married W. D. Gerard of Osborn, Kansas, and had six children and many descendents.

While this book is given the title "A Topliff Family," many other lines are also traced herein. This page, however, is designed to give briefly this one Topliff family, in the male line, from about 1580 until the name as a surname ended in 197/.

CLEMENT TOPLIFF AND HIS WIFE SARA

As Clement was born Nov. 17, 1603 and his wife in 1605, they were in their early thirties when they came to Dorchester in 1635 or '37. They were probably with Richard Mather in the "Secomd Emigration."

The date of the birth of their first child in Dorchester was in April 1637. As this son left no descendents, he probably died while young. The next children were girls, born in 1639, '41, and '44. Two of these married and left many descendents. Samuel I, the last child, was born in 1646. If Clement and Sara had children in England, nothing is known of them.

According to an agreement made early in 1637 by those living in Dorchester, Clement was given his share of land, about five acres. The lot on which his house stood was near the present Columbia Road, and a street through his farm even now bears his last name.

His grave stone in the cemetery at the intersection of Stroughton Street and Columbia Road is readable to this day.

Obviously a hard working and prudent man and also a successful one, as his will shows, Clement was a member of the First Church (Congregational) and early became a freeman. At one time he cared for the cattle of the town and later was a fence "viewer." He signed, in 1641, the Thompson's Island Agreement.

When he made his will in 1666, Clement recorded that his body was infirm and weak, but that his mind was completely under his control. However, he did not die until December 24, 1671/72. The original will,

probated in Boston in the Suffolk Probate Volume VII, p. 281, tells us much about the founding father of a large and significant American family. In it he affirms his basic religious beliefs, provides for all his children and especially for his wife, puts the responsibility for caring for his mother on his son and leaves the bulk of his estate to him for that reason.

By now Clement owned twenty-three acres in addition to his house, barn and orchard. His books alone were valued at over two pounds. When his few debts were settled, the estate came to over 270 pounds, a considerable amount in those days.

His wife, whose maiden name is not known, died July 25, 1693, and is buried near her husband.

Obedience, a daughter of Clement and Sara married David Copp (or Cope) whose father owned Copp's Hill.

SAMUEL I AND PATIENCE SOMES

His dates are May 7, 1646 and October 12, 1722.

Patience was a daughter of Morris Somes of Glouster, Massachusetts. She was born in 1652, married in Boston in October of 1671, and died September 8, 1728. Her Mother, Elizabeth, was the daughter of John Kendall of Cambridge.

Of this marriage there were eleven children, the first being born in 1673 and the last in November of 1698. Six of these were sons, of whom four had sons of their own. The tenth child of Samuel I and Patience was Samuel II, whose life is traced below.

Samuel I lived all his life in Dorchester. Using well his inheritance and his undoubted natural abilities, and being a man of "piety, parts, and worth," he held every town office including those of constable, selectman, and clerk. In his Congregational Church he was the Presiding Elder for twenty-one years. Two of his sons were also deacons. Records are in existence attesting to his generous charity to those in need. He was also a sergeant in the local militia.

In several accounts Samuel I's home is called a mansion. His will revealed an estate of about 580 pounds, with his house and lot appraised at 400 pounds.

Joseph, eldest son of Samuel I moved to Stoughton and became wealthy, his house being worth 2500 pounds at his death in 1749.

Another son of Samuel I, Ebenezer, was the father of the noted Captain Samuel Topliff of Boston who was murdered at sea in 1811 by the

mutinous crew of the ship he partly owned.

Nathaniel of Dorchester (born 1757), great-grandson of Patience and Samuel I, and grandson of their son Nathaniel was a poet and writer of hymns. A copy of his book is in the Boston Public Library. A few of his fine lines are quoted at the front of this book. While Nathaniel was not a college educated man, his brother became the first Topliff to graduate from Harvard (class of 1795).

SAMUEL II AND HANNAH TRESCOTT

His dates are: born in Dorchester, Massachusetts, May 30, 1695; died in Willmington, Connecticut, November 1, 1754.

He and Hannah were married February 8, 1715. Her father was Samuel (1675-1730) of Milton, Massachusetts, a son of William (1614-1699) and his wife, Elizabeth Dyer (1625-1699), both of Dorchester.

After being deeded her father's estate in 1729 in Dorchester, she and Samuel II moved to Milton. Later her brother sold to her husband, for 600 pounds, her father's land in Milton. It appears that they were not a poor couple. Also, they were not unwilling to pull up their stakes, as they lived in Milton only until 1735, then in Lebanon, Connecticut, until 1740, and finally in Wilmington. Here he died, as his easy to read tombstone shows. Her death date is not given.

Of their ten children, six were boys and four were girls. Only one daughter lived to marry; three of the sons died young. From the other sons descend, probably, all those who now carry the Topliff name.

Our interest lies in Calvin, the seventh child, born in Milton.

CALVIN AND JERUSHA BICKNELL

His dates are: born in Milton, August 24, 1729, died December 23, 1805. No record shows that he left Milton.

Jerusha was from Mansfield, Connecticut. She and Calvin were married January 9, 1758. Her antecedents and death date are unknown to the writer.

After the birth of all his children and Jerusha's death, Calvin married, in 1792, Ruth Webber.

What a magnificent family blessed this couple - sixteen children! All the eight boys married and, presumably, had children of their own. And of the eight girls, it is known that seven, at least, were married. Little wonder that one Topliff genealogy states that virtually all Topliffs in the United States today are descendents of Calvin.

Our concern is with the sixth child, the fourth son, Samuel III, born in 1770.

Calvin's first child, a son, was born in 1758 and the last one, a girl, in 1787. Jerusha's child-bearing time lasted thirty years. By today's standards they were a truly exceptional couple. Over the accepted mortality rates for offsprings of their day, they were a winning couple.

Calvin was born in 1729; the last known death-date of a child of his is 1860. These dates give us a span of 131 years, more than one third of the years between 1620 and 1980.

SAMUEL III AND AMY DURKEE

His dates are June 26, 1770 and August 4, 1839.

Amy (or Anna) Durkee's dates are 1772 and 1842. She was probably married early in 1790. Her antecedents have not been traced.

At least three of the sons of Calvin (1729-1809) went from Milton to Vermont; James and Jerome to Bridgewater; Samuel III to Bernard. James is listed as head of a household in the 1790 census of Vermont and Samuel III is so listed in 1800.

Bernard lies about ten miles to the north, and Bridgewater about ten miles to the west of Woodstock which is the seat of Windsor County. At the family cemetery in Bridgewater there are many Topliff graves, including those of Jerome and James. The latter served in the General Assembly for eleven years. He also had a sense of the importance of "family," as his gravestone reads, "James Topliff, son of Calvin of Milton, Connecticut, etc."

To this day, Bernard, situated in a lovely valley, remains entirely a rural community.

Samuel III was a successful and respected farmer as had been all four of his direct American forebears. The number and names of all his children is not known.

In the cemetery a short distance up the road from a white, frame church of fine proportions are the graves of Samuel III and Amy and others of their family.

Charles, the son of Samuel III, in whom our interest centers, had at least two brothers. The one named Russell lived and died in Bernard.

CHARLES AND _____

His dates are March 14, 1796 and 1845. The name and dates of his wife and of his marriage are not presently known.

Certainly Charles is the most intriguing of his line of Topliffs for several reasons. When and why did he leave Bernard to go to the far western part of New York state? Did he go alone or with a brother or a relative? Did he take a wife from Vermont with him, or did he find one in New York? From whom did he get the name Charles, borne by no other Topliff before him and carried by his three succeeding generations? When and by whom was his portrait on wood done? Why is his wife not buried beside him?

His Bernard birth certificate gives the names of his mother and father, his father's occupation, and his birth date. In the cemetery in Clear Creek, just within the present line of Cattaragus County in New York, his grave stone gives only his name and the dates 1796-1845. Scarcely a quarter of a mile down the road, in his day, was a white, frame church. This almost exactly duplicates his father's church and cemetery in Vermont.

Two of the sons of Charles, E. Curtis (1829-1895) and Francis M. (1837-1911) lie beside him. His other son, Charles Casper, whose line is being traced in these pages, lies in Kansas.

The town records of Ellington, Chautauqua County, say that Charles served on the local school board. While he was a farmer, his health

was not good and he became quite blind. His son, Charles Casper, speaks of caring for him, but makes no mention of his mother. Perhaps she had died.

The two sons who remained in that part of New York became prosperous men.

CHARLES CASPER AND ELIZABETH BENT

His dates are November 6, 1830 and December 25, 1889.

Elizabeth's dates are September 29, 1832 and February 22, 1900. Her marriage took place in Randolph, New York on July 12, 1853. She gave, in the 1865 census, her birthplace as Vermont. The town was Mount Holly, Rutland County, which lies about thirty miles southwest of Bernard. Her father, Hartwell Bent, had moved from there to Randolph before 1840. She is buried beside her husband in Osborn, Kansas.

County land records show that the couple lived in Ellington, New York in 1856. According to the New York state census of 1865, Charles Casper lived in Randolph, worked for the Great Western Railroad, was a mail agent, owned a frame house of $1000 value, and owned land. The 1870 census states that he was a farmer in Napoli Township and that his real estate was worth $1750. He also owned land in Poland Township.

When, in 1871, the move was made to Kansas, it was by covered wagon. The journey was one of over one thousand miles. He settled in Smith County, which is, incidentally, the geographical center of the continental United States.

Charles Casper and Elizabeth had two children: Charles Hartwell, born in 1855, and Mary, born November 24, 1859.

Mary married W. D. Gerard of Osborne, the publisher of the "Osborne County News." Charles Casper's obituary, given in full below from that paper, tells much about this pioneering couple:

"Charles Casper Topliff was born at Clear Creek, Chautauqua County, New York, on the 6th day of November, 1830.

"He was early called through the blindness of his father to assume duties beyond his years, in the support of the family and in that care and personal attention required by his stricken parent. At sixteen his father died and the son became the head of the family and so continued for many years its chief stay and support.

"Married July 12, '53 to Miss Elizabeth Bent, who has ever been his faithful and loving companion. He, like thousands of others, turned his face toward Kansas, and in 1871 located his homestead which now adjoins the townsite of Harlan in Smith County. There he resided until about a year ago when failing health, together with the earnest wish of his children, he took up his residence with his son-in-law, the proprietor of this paper.

"For more than twenty-five years he contended with the disadvantages which follow in the train of ill health. In fact, he never was strong physically, but he possessed a will power vouchafed to but a few, and by the exercise of its potential and imperious command, disease was often baffled and for a time defeated of its purpose.

"A year ago he fell from a scaffolding while engaged in the construction of a building, and while there were for a time no effects apparent from the accident, further than a slight soreness in his chest and shoulders, yet it is undoubtedly true that he sustained a serious injury which hastened him in his march toward the dark and swiftly rolling waters of that river which we call death.

"Three weeks ago he left our office never to return, save with those who will as long as life lasts bear him in loving remembrance. Confined to the house, the greater part of the time to his bed, he bore the suffering, incident to his dizease-enlargement of the heart and weak lungs-with a fortitude unflinching and with a resignation devoid of complaint. On Christmas day while all the other homes of our city were bright with joyous welcome, to all who came, our home was darkened by the entrance of a guest unbidden, though not unexpected. But, as he came he found a soul at pece with the world, and ready to bid him welcome. And as life's hour and minute hand pointed to two o'clock he touched the tired eyes and set his seal upon the face of him who slept in peace. Not in vain has he lived, for in all his life he followed along the plain and simple lines where duty called, and those who knew him, and those with whom he dealt, gave to his keeping a love and confidence never betrayed.

"To him, Lord over all, we yield him up. Our grief is assuaged in the blessed hope that all is well with him.

"The time of burial has not been decided upon, as it is the wish of the bereaved widow that her son Charles who is in Denver at the present time should see his father's face once more. The funeral will take place soon after his arrival which it is thought will be to-morrow or next day."

CHARLES HARTWELL AND DORA McGRATH

His dates are: October 28, 1855 and August 4, 1946.

Honora Mary (Dora) McGrath was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, August 15, 1860, married in Randolph, New York, October 6, 1877, and died in Spruce Pine, North Carolina, September 21, 1941.

Dora was the eldest of the twelve children of Michael McGrath and Ellen Madden, his wife. Ellen, who was born in County Cork, Ireland, came to America when she was sixteen. Her birth and death dates are not known. Michael became, in Randolph, a dairy farmer. McGrath Lane there leads one to-day to his rolling acres and fruit orchard, as well as to the lands of his numerous descendants who live there. His imposing grave stone in the Catholic cemetery at Randolph clearly, simply, and proudly states:"Michael McGrath, age 73, August 14, 1891, Limrick County, Parish-Doume."

The marriage of Charles Hartwell to Dora McGrath led to his conversion to the Roman Catholic faith.

These two celebrated their sixty-third wedding anniversary in 1940, surrounded by children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives, and friends.

Five of this couple's children were born in Kansas; the first was born in Randolph. While one son died at birth, the two other sons lived to be 62 and 82 . Neither of them married. One served in the Mexican border conflict of 1916 and the other overseas in World War I. One daughter, Mrs. John Glenn had no children. The other two

daughters have many descendants.

The full obituary of Charles Hartwell in the Tri-County News of Spruce Pine, N. C., for August 8, 1946 is given below:

"Charles H. Topliff, age 90, owner and operator of the Topliff Hotel at Spruce Pine and former newspaper publisher, died at the hotel at 8:30 Sunday morning, following a long period of declining health due to his advanced age. Born at Ellington, N. Y., he moved with his parents to Kansas at the age of sixteen where they traveled in a covered wagon to take up a homestead.

"For twenty-four years Mr. Topliff was connected with the railroad mail service between Kansas City and Denver, Colorado. Later he moved to Osborne, Kansas, where for several years he was assistant editor and publisher of the Osborne County News.

"The Orland hotel and a cafeteria at Orlando, Florida, were operated by Mr. Topliff for eight years.

"The Phillips house in Spruce Pine was purchased by Mr. Topliff in 1920. He remodeled the building, enlarging it from 22 to 65 rooms. The grounds were beautified, including a garden which was his wife's pride.

"During the quarter of a century of Mr. Topliff's residence here, he was active in movements for the progress of the community. Those who knew his hospitality for a brief hour or a longer period, became his friends and never forgot him.

"Mr. Topliff's interest in publishing continued even up to the time of his death. His comments and gracious messages of congratulation to the local paper on many occasions were highly prized.

"As the oldest Rotarian in the 194th district, Mr. Topliff has received much attention during his last years. He was a charter member of the Spruce Pine Rotary Club, which held its meetings at his hotel. During recent weeks as weekness grew upon him, he rallied each Friday night to take his place with his fellow Rotarians.

"Surviving are three daughters, Mrs. L. P. Dean of Spruce Pine, Mrs. John Glenn of El Paso, Texas, Mrs. A. A. Fiezel of Orlando, Florida; two sons, Hartwell M. and Casper C., both of this town; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

"Funeral services for Mr. Topliff will be held at St. Lucien's Catholic Church of Spruce Pine Thursday morning at 9:30 p'clock. The Reverend Francis Murphy, assistant pastor of the St. Lawrence Church of Ashville will receive the casket at the church door. The Reverend William J. Kuder, pastor of St. Lucien's will officiate at the Mass and give the sermon. The Right Reverend Monsignor Louis J. Bour, pastor of St. Lawrence and Dean of the Catholic churches of western North Carolina will give the Absolution. The Reverend Paul J. Termer of the church of the Holy Angels at Mount Airy will conduct services at the grave.

"Internment will be in Memorial Cemetery at Spruce Pine."

(Honorary and active pall bearers were then listed.)

TOPLIFFS AND DARTMOUTH

Dartmouth college was founded in 1769. It was begun as a school for Indians. A medical college was added in 1797.

New Hampshire became a state in 1788 and Vermont in 1791. The Connecticut river serves as a boundary between them. The land of Vermont had long been claimed by New York and New Hampshire.

Bridgewater and Bernard, Vermont, lie about twenty miles to the west of Hanover, the site of Dartmouth in New Hampshire.

Many Topliffs have gone to Dartmouth. Between 1826 and 1876, for example, five of the six who entered the medical college were graduated. One of these practiced his profession in Maine, the others in New Hampshire.

Elijah M., a graduate of 1852, was a lawyer in Manchester. In 1911 he left to his alma mater over $200,000 which was used to construct the handsome Topliff Hall, a dormitory.

No effort has been made to trace the relationships, if any, of these men and the descendants of Calvin (1728-1809) and Samuel III (1770-1839).

THE BENT FAMILY

John Bent (1596-1672) who was among the first settlers of Sudbury, Massachusetts in 1638 was born in the parish of Penton-Grafton, Hampshire, England, his father being Robert (1566-1631). John's farm was of six acres. His will is dated thirteen days before his death, his wife Martha and oldest son Peter being named as executors. His widow died May 15, 1679. Of their seven children, five, including John II, were born in England.

John II (1635-1717) bought in 1662 land on the west side of the old Connecticut Path, in what is now the town of Framingham. The first petition for the incorporation of this township was headed by Corporal John Bent, who was chosen one of the tythingmen at the second town meeting in 1701. His first wife was Hannah, daughter of John Stone of Cambridge, and the mother of his three children.

David I (1691-1730), son of John II, also lived in Framingham. He married, January 1, 1713, Mary, daughter of Thomas Drury, and fathered six children, including David II, born March 30, 1730 (posthumous).

David II (1730-1798), a blacksmith, moved when a young man from Framingham to Rutland, Massachusetts, where he bought a farm in the southern part of town, a portion lying in what afterward became the town of Paxton. At his death he owned half a pew in Rutland meeting-house and two-thirds of a pew in Paxton meeting-house. He was captain of one of the companies that marched from Rutland to Cambridge upon receipt of the news of the Battle of Lexington, and saw active service in the following year.

In August 1787 a cyclone destroyed his barn, blacksmith shop and orchard of nearly 200 apple trees. His first wife, to whom he was married April 3, 1751, was Lucy, daughter of Peter Moore, and the mother of eleven children, including David III. His second wife was Martha Browning who had one son, Samuel Browning Bent.

The word BENT in old English meant "high pasture."

David III (April 3, 1756-January 1, 1832) like his father was also known as "Captain" because of his Revolutionary War service. He, too, responded to the Lexington alarm and saw service in the later part of the war (October 1781). He moved, about 1776, from Rutland to Templeton, Massachusetts, and then, about 1786 to Mt. Holly, Vermont, where, as a farmer, he was one of the first settlers. Mt. Holly, which was incorporated in 1792, lies in a depression of the Green Mountains about 15 miles southeast of Rutland, Vermont. He served as town clerk in 1797. He married on April 26, 1775, Phebe (born November 5, 1756, died April 15, 1848), daughter of John and Elizabeth (Earle) Whittemore of Paxton, Massachusetts, and a descendant of Thomas Whittemore who settled in Charleston (the part now Everett) Massachusetts, in 1645. David and Phebe had fourteen children. Of the six sons, our interest centers on David IV.

David IV (born October 23, 1780 in Templeton, Massachusetts, died in Cavendish, Vermont, in December 1859) accompanied his parents to Mr. Holly, was reared and educated there and was a farmer. He was a member of the Baptist church and a generous and highly respected citizen. He married in 1800 Lucy Fletcher who died about 1807, aged twenty-four years. She

was the mother of four children, including Hartwell Bent in whom our interest centers. The second wife of David IV was Lydia Bemis who also had four children.

Hartwell (born in Mt. Holly, Vermont, May 28, 1803, died in Randolph, New York, May 2, 1844) was a merchant in Mt. Holly for several years before removing to Randolph where he purchased a farm in 1835. Two years later he rebuilt and opened a public house (Union House) which he ran until his death. He was a man of enterprise, public-spirited, engaging in business that would build up the town. With T. B. Walker he owned and operated a stage route from Ellicottville to Jamestown, he was a deputy sheriff of Cattaraugus county for several years, held town offices in Randolph, and was largely interested in the Holland Land Company of that day. Hartwell married in Shrewsbury, Rutland county, Vermont, March 12, 1829, Hannah (March 25, 1807-August 11, 1842) eldest daughter of Abner and Betsey (Sanderson) Aldrich. The six children of Hartwell and Betsey were born in Randolph. The third child, Betsey, born September 29, 1832, married Charles Casper Topliff.

The Bent family has been written on in some detail because, like the Topliff family, it was a large, important, and interesting family that has spread throughout the United States.

According to one source:"Twenty-one descendants of the first John Bent served in the wars between 1645 and 1771; twenty-three descendants served in the Revolutionary war of seven years; six others were commissioned in the Massachusetts militia from 1781 to 1824; thirty-nine

enlisted in the Civil War; nineteen were college graduates; eleven clergymen; nine physicians; eight lawyers; and twenty-eight were members of the state leigslatures, among whom was Charles Bent, first governor of New Mexico." (This was written shortly after 1910.)

Items: (1) John II had a sister Martha who was born about 1643, married Samuel How of Sudbury and had a son named David who was the first proprietor of the "Wayside Inn," made famous by Longfellow.

(2) Peter Bent, a distant cousin of David I, married April 18, 1727, Mary, daughter of Rev. Samuel Parris, in whose family the Salem Witchcraft Delusion began.

(3) Family legend: "A Bent manufactured the first piano made in the United States." Facts: (a) William and Adam Bent, sons of Ebenezer (born in 1737) and distant cousins of David II were "among the very first piano manufacturers in this country" in Boston. (b) George Payne Bent (born 1854), a descendant of John I through Samuel Browning Bent and thus a cousin of David IV was, in 1908, President of a piano manufacturing company in Chicago whose annual sales of over one million dollars came from every state in the Union as well as several foreign countries.

The Drury Line

Mary Drury married in 1713 David Bent (1691-1730)

The father of Mary Drury was Captain Thomas Drury (1668-1723) who had settled at Framingham, Massachusetts, and married in 1687 Rachael Rice.

The father of Capt. Thomas was John Drury (1646-78), a member of the Old South Church, Boston, a Lieutenant in King Phillip's War; the husband of Mary Weare who was a daughter of Peter Weare of York, Maine.

The father of John Drury was Hugh Drury.

The Gerards

Wilbur D. Gerard (March 7, 1853-1942, Orlando) and Mary Alice Topliff (November 24, 1859-1935) were married in Osborne, Kansas where their six children were born. (Two children died as infants.) Wilbur owned the "Osborne County News."

The descendants of Wilbur and Mary Alice Gerard

(1) Harry (November 1880-July 1958) had a son who died in 1916. His daughter, now Mrs. George Pope, lives near Scott City, Kansas.

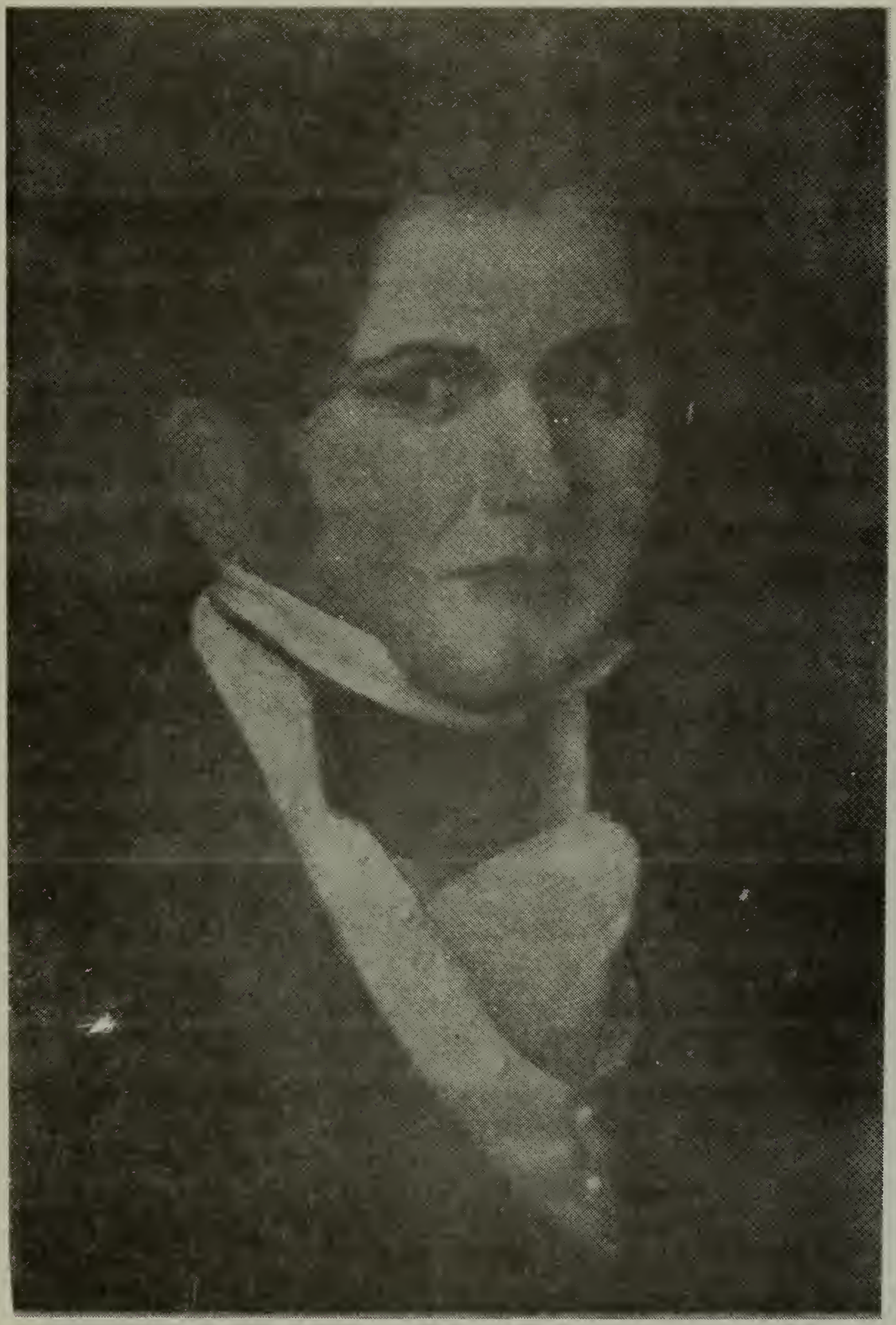
(2) Edith Ives (1886-1941 had no children. Her husband was a very prominent merchant in Orlando.

(3) Estelle (1887-) had two sons by her first marriage. Both died young. Now Mrs. Graham, she lives in Anaheim, California, with her daughter Marion Aldrich, her son-in-law and grandchildren. Estelle, ever alert and cheerful, has lost her eyesight. Mr. Aldrich is a very successful merchant.

(4) Elsie (1891-) Jewel lives in Orlando with her youngest son, David, a pharmacist as was his father. Her married son, Wilbur, has no children. Elsie, too, is blind.

Captions for the pictures and documents that follow

1. Charles Topliff (1796-1845) - from a portrait on wood
2. Charles Hartwell Topliff (1855-1946)
3. Honora Dora McGrath (1860-1941) - Mrs. C. H. Topliff
4. Lovick Pierce Dean (1878-1914)
5. Nina Topliff (1879-1968) - Mrs. L. P. Dean
6. Albert A. Fiezl (1885-1970)
7. Frances Topliff (1891-) - Mrs. A. A. Fiezl
8. The Hotel in Spruce Pine, N. C.
9. The will of Martin Walk, 1791
10. Sale of land in 1814 by David Bent of Mt. Holly, Vt., to his son George for $1.00
11. Charles Hartwell Topliff and his sister Mary Alice. Taken in 1864.
12. The daughters of L.P. and Nina T.Dean: Virginia, Linette, Doris. Taken in 1914.



TOPLIFF
HOTEL

Martin Walck

In the Name of God. Amen, I Martin Walck of Rowan County
State of North Carolina Planter, being weack in Body, but of
Sound Memory thanks be to god for it to this Day, and in the year of
our Lord one thousent Seven hundert and Ninty one, and the fifteen
Day of October, I do make and Publish this my Last will and
Testament in Maner following, that is to Say; I Recomand my
Soul to God that gave it, and my Body I Recomand to the Earth
from where it Came, to be Buyret in a Dissant and Cristan
Manner as ord to be, and as for my Wordly Estate, wich it has pleased
God to bless me with in this Life, I want all my just Debts Paid
and with wat is Left I do want the Same in the maner following
First, I will that my Dear and beloved Wife Elisabeth is to have
and to hold all that is on my Primises where on I now Life, as
Long as She remains my Witow, and Set in Case, She Should See
Cause to Merrey again, I will that my Dear Wife Elisabeth
Shall have the Thirt out of all my Estate both Freehold and Move-
ables, and for her to have and to hold the Same as Long as She
Shall Life, and after her Decease, it is my will, that wath
She holds of my Estate, at the time of Mernage, Shall be
Preeset, and after her Decease the Same Shall be Equily Devided
amongst all my Children Sheer and Sheer alick. — — —
Also it is my Will, that if my Dear Wife Should merry again,
that, She takes the thirt out of all my Estate both Freehold and
Moveable as above Mentionet, and the other tow Parts, I will
that the Same Shall be Equily Devidet among all my Children
Visebly and unvisebly, if the unvesebly is alive Delivered
both Boys and Girls, Sheer and Sheer alick, and for the true
Performence of this my Last Will and Testament, I make and
ordain my Dear Wife Elisabeth and my trusty Friend Philip Hoens
as my Sole Executors for them to See this my Last Will and Testa-
ment fullfilt acording to my true Intent and Meaning in
Wittness where of I the Said Martin Walck have to this my Last
Will and Testament Set my own hand and Seal the Day and
year above Written, Signet, Sealed and Delivered by the Said
Martin Walck as and for his Last Will and Testament, in the
Presents of us, who were Present at the Signing and Sealing thereof

Jacob Hartman Just
Peter Scane

his
Martin Walck (Seal)
Mark

.018

6c 69

Know All Men by these Presents

That I Daniel Bent of Mounthollly in the County of Rutland and State of Vermont for and in consideration of the sum of One dollar received to my full satisfaction of George W. Bent of the Town County and State aforesaid the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge have remised released and forever quitclaimed and by these presents for my self and my Heirs do fully clearly and Absolutely remise release and forever quitclaim unto the said George W. Bent his Heirs and assigns forever all the right title interest estate property claim and demand which I the said Daniel Bent have in and to a certain piece or parcel of land lying and being in that part of Mounthollly that formerly belonged to Ludlow division as follows to wit, bounded on the east by land owned by Jonathan Rice north by Doct. Asaph Fletcher west by [illegible] Horton south by a piece of land that I have this day deeded to Daniel Bent Jr and is the same that Thomas Parker deeded to me on the third day of September AD 1795 and contains forty five acres be the same more or less

To Have and to Hold

the aforesaid premises unto him the said George W. Bent his Heirs and assigns forever so that neither I the said Daniel Bent nor any other person or persons in my name or behalf shall or will in my name hereafter claim or demand any right or title to the premises aforesaid or any part thereof but they and every of them shall by these presents be excluded and forever barred

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal at Mounthollly in the County of Rutland this 19th day of September AD 1814

Signed sealed and delivered in presence of Daniel Shaw, Stephen Tucker — Daniel Bent [L.S.]

State of Vermont, Rutland County ss } Be it Remembered that on the 19th day of the 19th day of September AD 1814 [illegible]

This is Daniel Bent II

[illegible] mortgage & do hereby [illegible]

The Fiezls

Frances, the youngest of Charles Hartwell Topliff's six children, was born in Kansas City, Kansas, November 13, 1891. Her education, including college, was gotten in Kansas and Missouri. With her parents she moved to Orlando, Florida, in 1912, and has, except for a few years in other Florida towns and in Missouri, lived there ever since.

In May of 1915 she married Albert A. Fiezl, who built a large business as a contractor in sheet metal and roofing. An immigrant from Hungary, Albert was an avid sportsman, hunter and public spirited man, as well as a large land owner. He died May 22, 1970, age 85.

Frances lives with her daughter Jeanette and her son, Albert, Jr., in the same house that she shared with Albert for most of the 55 years of their marriage. Her life has been devoted to the husband, her seven children, her home, and her Catholic faith.

The descendants of Albert and Frances Fiezl

(1) Born in Kansas City, Missouri, October 23, 1916, Mary Jeannette married Charles A. Savard of Omaha, Nebraska, July 2, 1943, but has lived in Orlando practically all of her life. Charles and Jeannette had two children, a son, Charles, Jr., who died in 1971, and a daughter Maria (Mrs. Edward Bauer) who lives in Maryland. Charles, Sr., died very suddenly in November 1969.

(2) Charles Albert, born November 13, 1920, was a graduate of the University of Florida in mechanical engineering. Before entering military service in World War II he was in business with his father. His plane was forced down in the jungles of the Dutch East Indies on October 6, 1942. His body was never found.

(3) Francis Anthony, born July 6, 1924 when his mother was visiting her mother in Spruce Pine, was also a University of Florida graduate and worked with his father. As an infantryman, he, too, gave his life for his country in the Battle of the Bulge in 1944.

(4) Ruth was born August 1, 1927 in Spruce Pine. A Florida State graduate, she has taught school for the past 17 years. Shortly after finishing college, she married Edward J. O'Connell, a business man whose great hobby was collecting and classifying shells and fossils. The five children of Ruth and Edward, all born in Orlando, are Cheryl, Edward, Jr., Diane, Danny, and Maureen. Edward, Sr., died March 1, 1974. Ruth is now married to Charles Staskus whose business is real estate.

(5) Albert A. Jr., born December 2, 1928, also attended the University of Florida. He is an electrical contractor. His former wife is now dead. They had no children.

(6) Barbara, born November 4, 1930, was educated and married in Orlando to Jack Morrison, an engineer with Martin-Marietta. Their adopted children, ages 15 and 10, are Barton and Jack, Jr.

(7) Doris, born July 31, 1932, was educated and married in Orlando to John W. Brandt who is in the accoustic tile business. Their children are John, Jr., Frances, Lynn, and Bruce.

THE DEANS

Lovick Pierce Dean (July 8, 1878-December 21, 1914) who married Nina Topliff, in Hiawatha, Kansas, June 21, 1904, was named by his father for a very well known Methodist Minister. (Lovick Pierce who was born in North Carolina in 1785 and died 95 years later in Georgia was influential in the organization and functioning of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.) L. P. Dean was a salesman for Reed-Murdock, a prominent grain company in Kansas City, Missouri. He died quite suddenly in Orlando, Florida, and was buried in the Greenwood (Protestant) Cemetery there. Nina Topliff Dean (March 3, 1879-February 26, 1968) is buried at Spruce Pine, N. C. beside her parents and others of her family. Of the three daughters of this couple, Doris (April 10, 1907) and Virginia (December 11, 1908) were born in Kansas City, Missouri. Linnetta (September 1, 1912-September 20, 1976) was born in Orlando and died in Wilson, N. C.

The Descendants of Lovick Pierce and Nina Topliff Dean

(1) Doris Elizabeth (Mrs. William John Alexander) was married in Spruce Pine, N.C., February 7, 1931. Her husband, a mining engineer from Fallsburg, N. Y., died December 23, 1964, and is buried in Spruce Pine. The Alexanders had two sons: Charles Topliff, born January 2, 1942, a merchant in Charleston, S. C., is not married; Lt. Col. Walter Dean (army) born October 16, 1934, married ~~May 30, 1946~~ March 31, 1964, from Gardner, Massachusetts, Barbara Stasekelis. Walter and Barbara's children are: Mark William, born November 11, 1964 and Marlene Joy, born September 29, 1968.

(2) Linetta (Mrs. Grant Folmsbee) was married October 13, 1943. Her husband, an Episcopal Priest, is from Binghamton, N. Y. There are two children of this marriage: Nina (Mrs. James D. Silverthorn), born June 9, 1948, and Paul, born December 3, 1944. Paul and Linda Folmsbee have two boys, Philip Michael and Timothy John.

(3) Virginia (Mrs. Peter G. D. Kershaw) was married January 4, 1944. Her husband, a history teacher from North Augusta, S. C., taught mostly in Spruce Pine, N. C., and Englewood, N. J. There were two children of this marriage: Dean Macmillan (1947-65) and James Dean, born December 27, 1948.

The father of Lovick Pierce Dean was Hiram H. Dean II (1845-1905) and his mother was Louisa Elizabeth Walk (1838-1904). Hiram and Louisa were both born and raised at Fancy Gap, Virginia. The "Union Sunday School" records of 1856 and 57 clearly show the attendance there of Louisa and others of her family and of many Deans, but not Hiram H. and his immediate family. The Deans were all Methodists, the Walks, Moravians; thus, the name "Union." Hiram moved to West Virginia and became a preaching deacon of his church. He sold his land at Fancy Gap in 1881, the year in which it is supposed he moved to Kansas to continue his life as a minister and school teacher. Hiram and Louisa lived for a time in or near Wheeling, West Virginia. It was here that L. P. Dean was born as well, probably, as his two brothers and two sisters.

Hiram H. Dean II in the Confederate Service

The National Archives at Washington reveal that Private Hiram H. Dean was wounded at the battle of Wythville, Virginia, July 18, 1863, and had his thigh amputated July 20th. He secured an order for an artificial limb in Richmond, Virginia in February of 1865 and was furloughed, March 2,

1865. His unit was, first, heavy artillery, and later, infantry. Since Hiram was five years old according to the 1850 census, he was only 18 when he was wounded in battle. Wythville is in the county just north of Carroll.

Hiram H. Dean II as a Methodist Deacon

In the library of the West Virginia Wesleyan College at Buckhannon there is a special collection of the Methodist Historical Society. The (entirely handwritten) Journal of the annual conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, contain an entry for 1880 that states: "On Sunday, September 5th, after service in the...church I ordained the following Deacons...Hiram H. Dean...signed, Bishop H. N. McTyeire." Deacon Dean was assigned to the Kenova circuit of the Catlettsburg district and he was here for two years, the 1882 and later Journals making no further reference to him. Reports, probably in his hand, for 1880 and 1881 reveal (for 1881) three sunday schools with 123 people in them. three churches with 101 members,eight infant and four adult baptisms, 850 sittings (services), and the value of the churches as $1700.00. Clearly, this Deacon was also a pioneer in his own way, as were so many others in the many families traced in this book.

Hiram H. and Louisa Walk Dean had both died in Kansas before their son Lovick Pierce was married, he in 1905 and she in 1904.

The parents of Hiram H. Dean II were Elkanah (1818-) of Virginia and Mary Polly Cambell (1814-) of North Carolina. They were married in 1838. Elkanah described himself in the 1840 census as a farmer and in the 1850 one as a laborer. He had at least five children.

Elkanah's parents were Hiram H. Dean I of Virginia (1792-1865) and Nancy Ayers of Virginia (1790-1865). He was a farmer and owned 500 acres

at one time at Fancy Gap. He "sold" most of his land to his sons Elkanah and Abner J.

William Henry Harrison Dean was the father of Hiram H. (1792-1865) and of Howel H. and probably also of John and William. W. H. H. Dean is listed as a taxpayer in Henry County, Virginia, 1782-87. It is probable that he was born no later than 1760. Henry County at that time included the lands or parts of the lands that later became the counties of Henry, Patrick, Wythe, Grayson, and Carroll. The Dean family has not been traced beyond W. H. H. Dean.

It is a fact, probably noteworthy, that for 100 years many Dean men had a middle name beginning with H, but they consistently signed documents using only this H, without giving the middle name.

DEAN OR HARRISON?

Let us take a look at the question: was the family name of the Deans really Harrison?

The fact that the surname was Harrison was apparently passed down in that family of Deans for many gererations. For example, Lovick Pierce Dean told his wife, who told her daughter Virginia, who told her husband (the author of this book) that the name was Harrison, but gave no reason why it was changed to Dean nor did he say, apparently, when it was changed.

In W. R. Morris's book "Folk Lore of Blueridge Mountain," Vol. I, page 34, one reads: "The following story has been verified by Dr. J. R. Branscome, Mrs. Susan Dean Jones and Wise Johnson. That: William Henry Harrison came from Dean, Eng., and their neighbors called them Dean. Later they adopted the name Dean. Another is that when he signed his name he failed to put a comma after Harrison, but put a coma after Dean, and from this error took the name Dean. Their lands at one time extended from the Rebecca Bolen place to the top of the Dean and Melton Knob. From the mountain road to Brookmore."

(To the present writer, the two reasons given above for changing one's name seem hardly plausible.)

In the Virginia State Library at Richmond there is a book, A History of Dean and Chalford, which states on page one: "Both are hamlets in N. W. Oxfordshire on the main road from Enstone to Chipping Norton which runs along a high ridge of land between two valleys formed by the river Glyme and a tributory. About midway along it and roughly half a mile to the south, down on the Glyme, lies Chalford. Dean is roughly two

miles due south again, on the slopes of the northern ridge of the Even-lode valley. Both hamlets lie in the hundred of Chaddington, but Dean is in Spelsbury Parish and Chalford in Enstone.... Until 1747 Dean manor included part of Chalford."

The Registers of the parish church of Dean, which are given in full in the book for 1604 and for 1613-1750 as well as 1751-1812 give baptisms (including illegitimate ones), weddings and burials. Many of these entries are in Latin. As for the "Harrisons having come from Dean, England," this is entirely possible judging from the many, many Harrison entries. There are also many Deans listed.

The Walk Family

In early American documents the name has several spellings. Just in the line of Martin the immigrant who was granted English citizenship in Virginia in 1742, it is found written as Vallick, Worlck, Wallick, Walke, Wollock, Walluck, Walek, and Walk.

The German colonies of 1714 and 1717 of Orange County, Virginia, were located in that part of the county that became, in 1748, Culpepper, and in 1792, Madison. Martin Walk was not in the first two groups that settled there as his name is first mentioned in 1735, but it is highly likely that, as the others, he came from Alsace, the Palatinate, or Hesse. Perhaps he was born in 1715.

Catharine, a daughter of Michael Clore (also spelled Clawre, Klor, Glore) the immigrant, married Martin Walk about May 19, 1735. Michael sold, on that date, 100 acres of land to each of his two new sons-in-law, from his total patent of 698 acres. In July of 1736 Michael Yeager sold Martin Walk and Tobias Wilhits 400 acres in the great folk of the Rappahannock River. This land in Culpepper County, Virginia was not sold by Martin Walk until 1782.

Catharine and Martin had children who are mentioned, but not by name, in Michael Clore's will, probated March 17, 1763. This will refers to the children of daughter Catharine, formerly the wife of Martin Walk. Whether she had died or was divorced from Martin is not clear.

What is clear from North Carolina land records is that in 1752 Martin was living in Anson County. This huge county was later broken up into a number of counties including Rowan, Davidson, Forsythe (Winston-Salem), Stokes, and Surry, in all of which either he or his many

descendants lived.

In 1752 Martin's wife was Cattron Gebhard (Catherine Garrett), daughter of Johannes Gerhard. They bought land on the Yadkin River near Salisbury. When Martin sold this land in 1768 he identified himself as "senior," and bought on the same day 158 acres on "horse-shoe Neck on east side." In 1778 - during the American Revolution - Martin paid a land tax of 260 pounds.

The Freidberg Diary of the Moravians in N. C. says in Volume I, "To-day Brother Loesch married Martin Walk and Lisel (Elizabeth) Fiscuss, November 22, 1767." (The present writer assumes that this is the first Martin Walk and that this is his third marriage. However, it is possible that this is one of his sons.) There are many entries concerning Martin: his church activities, the baptism of children, a trip to Pennsylvania and so on.

In the 1st U. S. census Martin Walk is listed as head of a household with a wife, six sons and six daughters. The minister of his church wrote on October 17, 1791, that Martin died while family and friends were singing "going home hymns." A copy of his will and a translation of it are given elsewhere in this book.

In the 1800 census Elizabeth was head of a house and gave her age as 26-45. Three sons were also listed as head of a house and living very near her. In 1810, four sons (Jonathan, Joseph, Martin, and Samuel) were listed as living near each other, but Elizabeth is not listed. All three of the census reports were of Rowan county.

Joseph apparently inherited his father's house as a Freidberg Diary entry of 1832 states that Charles Walk, son of Joseph, and grandson of Martin, lived with his father in his grandfather's house.

Martin Walk II (a designation used only in this book) was born between 1770 and 1775 near Winston-Salem, N. C. In 1810 he had five sons (four below the age of 10) and two daughters under 10. As stated above, he lived near his brothers. On October 15, 1821 Martin II bought land in Grayson (now Carrol) county, Virginia, on the waters of Crooked Creek. (Perhaps the estate of Martin I had by now been settled.) This creek as well as Paul's creek, along whose banks other Walk land lay, are fairly near each other and carry the same name to this day.

By 1830 his son Benjamin lived on the farm next to his, and by 1840 two other of his sons, Jesse and Elisha, lived next to him, Benjamin having perhaps died.

Our interest lies in Elisha who was born in North Carolina in 1809, married Nancy Amburn on December 16, 1830, and had 7 or 8 children. He died in 1868 and his wife sold his land that year. Nancy's father, Samuel, fought in the Revolutionary War and was from Grayson County, Virginia.

Elisha and Nancy, along with many other Walks and many Deans, took a great interest in a Sunday School, established according to records still in existence, at Fancy Gap. Louisa Elizabeth, daughter of Elisha often excelled in the number of passages of scripture she could recite from memory. Later she married Hiram H. Dean.

The Will of Martin Worlck

"In the name of God: Amen. I Martin Worlck of Rowan County State of N. C. being weack in body but of sound memory thanks be to God for it to this day, and in the year of our Lord 1791, and the 15th of Oct., I do make and publish this my last will & testament in maner following, that is to say: I recommend my soul to God that gave it, and my body I recommend to the Earth from where it came, to be buryet in a Diffant & cristan manner as and to be, and as for my worely Estate wich it has pleased God to bless me with in this life, I want all my just debts paid and with what is left I do want the same in the manner following. First, I will that my dear and beloved wife Elizabeth is to have and to hold all that is on my primises where on I now life, as long as she remains my Witow and that in case she should to merry again, I will that my dear wife Elizabeth shall have the thirt out of all my Estate both freehold and moveable, and for her to have and to hold as long as she shall life and after her deceasse, it is my will that what she holds of my estate, at the time of merrage, shall be preaset (?), and after her decease the same shall be equily devided amongst all my children, sheer and sheer alick.

Also it is my will that if my dear wife should merry again, that she takes the thirt out of all my estate both freehold and moveables as above mentioned and the other two parts, I will that the same shall be equily devided among all my children both boys and girls."

A LAST PAGE

Additions:

Charles Topliff (1796-1845) had four sons. The son not mentioned elsewhere in these pages was named Austin. He also moved from New York to Kansas where he published a newspaper. In Lebanon live the sons of Curtis, Kurt and Ross. His daughter is Alice.

Ellen Madden McGrath was 91 years old when she died.

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Comments:

In just 12 generations an individual has 8,190 ancestors. In this brief study of 400 years (in one line) covering in some cases 12 generations, you may be sure that all 8,190 are not identified!

A genealogical study should be, and this one was, a real pleasure to do. It took over two years of intermittent effort to do these few pages. Perhaps time will allow further searching in several lines. There is no copyright for this.

The green cover is to remind us of the lush valleys and hills of eastern England, Ireland, New England, western New York, Florida, and western North Carolina. The gold is to remind us of the great wheat fields of Kansas and of the summer hue of southern California.

This labor of love was done, primarily, for Virginia and Jim.

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